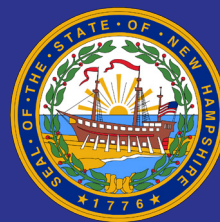


FirstNet New Hampshire Newsletter



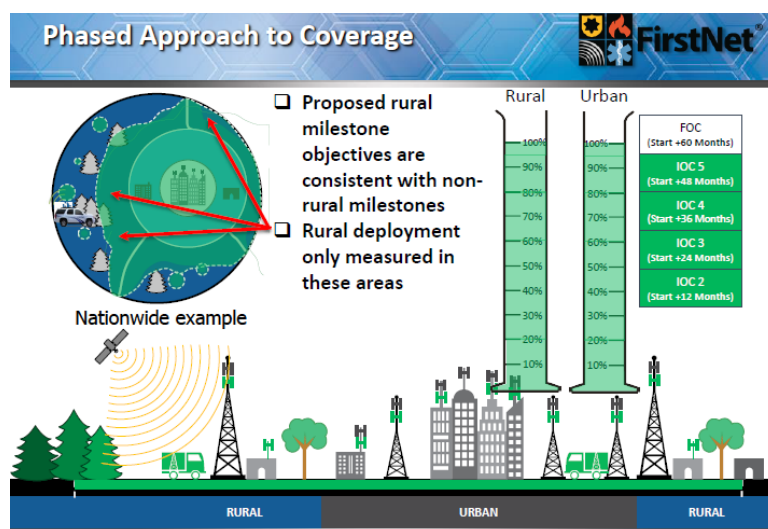
Message from John T. Stevens, (SWIC) and State Single Point of Contact (SPOC) for NH



New Hampshire announces Public/Private Partnership with Rivada Networks

New Hampshire has embarked on an extremely innovative approach to FirstNet as it relates to New Hampshire and the promotion of a statewide application to next generation communications technology. The First Responder Network Authority (FirstNet), was the last recommendation of the 9/11 Commission and created by the Middle Class Tax Relief and Job Creation Act of 2012 under the independent authority of the National Telecommunications and Information Administration (NTIA), within the US Department of Commerce to provide emergency

responders with the first high-speed wireless broadband network dedicated to public safety. New Hampshire has consistently worked with FirstNet to develop the program here in New Hampshire and to insure that first responders throughout the state are well served by this program. Understanding the challenges in developing a Nationwide Public Safety Broadband Network (NPSBN), New Hampshire has been understandably concerned that as a rural state, we would not get the attention from FirstNet that we felt was deserved. New Hampshire presents many challenges to a national public safety network, i.e. mountainous terrain, an international border, vastly rural, but with significant tourist population growth, and much of our southern border characterized as metropolitan Boston.



Taking the above into consideration, FirstNet has stated that they will provide the State Plan for New Hampshire by the second quarter of 2017. We have provided to FirstNet extensive data that would support a statewide build-out, however based on the rural nature of the state, we continue to be concerned that there will be many areas of the state that will remain under-served. Once the FirstNet State Plan is presented to New Hampshire, the Governor & Council will then have 90 days to accept the FirstNet State Plan by opting-in, agreeing that New Hampshire will coordinate with FirstNet to build the Radio Access Network (RAN) to support FirstNet in New Hampshire. If the

decision was to opt-out however, the responsibility would then be New Hampshire's to build the network to support FirstNet initiatives. FirstNet will then require that such a plan be forwarded to FirstNet for FirstNet and FCC approval within 180 days. It has long been the understanding by many that producing such a plan in 180 days is absolutely impractical and unachievable.

Recognizing the above, the Statewide Interoperability Executive Committee through its FirstNet/Broadband Working Group a year ago began to develop a process by which the State of New Hampshire would at least, be presented with an alternative option regarding an opt-out scenario that would satisfy a statewide application to FirstNet. Through an intensive research process that required a technologically advanced and a Department of Administrative Services approved RFP process, New Hampshire, through the approval of Governor & Council, has awarded Rivada Networks, the opportunity in a public/private partnership to work in concert with New Hampshire to create an alternative FirstNet plan that will have statewide applicability. Rivada Networks is a US-based communications technology business with offices in the US and Ireland. The name Rivada is derived from the acronym, “Radio Interoperable Voice and Data Applications.” The company specializes in the provision of wireless and interoperable telecommunications systems to public safety agencies and other emergency/disaster response agencies including the National Guard, US Coast Guard, and Customs and Border Protection. The firm has pioneered the development of technologies designed to enable public safety agencies to fund and operate their own dedicated mobile communications networks.

The purpose of this agreement with Rivada Networks is to establish this partnership and to promote a unified opportunity to negotiate with FirstNet, the FCC, and with NTIA, the prospect of constructing a New Hampshire statewide application to FirstNet and to negotiate shared revenues generated by a spectrum lease agreement. This initial agreement sets the stage and secures Rivada Networks as our onboard partner should the Governor & Council in 2017 pursue an opt-out scenario, where again, Governor & Council approval would be required.

This Agreement now in place, was drafted and developed as an integrated approach by both the New Hampshire’s Attorney General’s Office and Rivada Networks. The Agreement is strategically innovative and outlines the initial steps necessary to develop a statewide application to FirstNet. We have great confidence that we have identified a significant opportunity for New Hampshire to construct a technologically advanced communications network which is resilient and promotes and advances public safety, as we wish to congratulate Rivada Networks as our partner. We look forward to the future with great anticipation in this public/private partnership as New Hampshire remains extremely optimistic that it will lead the nation in making FirstNet a reality for all first responders statewide.



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